

OSBORNE PLACE PROVIDES HOUSING FOR HOMELESS LIVING WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

By Kathleen Piché, L.C.S.W., Public Affairs Director



Osborne Place Apartments, a new, 62-unit supportive housing development for homeless individuals and families living with mental illness in the Pacoima area, officially opened on Friday, August 23, 2013. LACDMH supported this project with funding from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), and is one of the many contributors that made this project possible.



Sponsored by A Community of Friends (ACOF), the event was attended by dignitaries, staff and clients who were treated to refreshments and tours of the units. Welcoming the crowd were Helena Jubany, Chair, Board of Directors, ACOF and Dora Gallo, Chief Executive Officer, ACOF.

Remarks were made by LACDMH Director Marvin Southard, D.S.W.; Douglas Guthrie, Housing Authority, City of L.A.; Michael Arnold, L.A. Homeless Services Authority; Felipe Fuentes, City

Councilman, 7th District; Zev Yaroslavsky, LA County Supervisor, Third District; and Raul Bocanegra, Assemblymember 39th District.



Osborne Place includes 29 studios, 6 one-bedrooms, 14 two-bedrooms, and 13 three-bedrooms, five of which are townhomes with private garages. Two additional units are for property staff and two case-managers are on-site to assist the residents, of which 39 households were considered chronically homeless.

Amenities include: a community room, a multipurpose computer room, a property manager's office, a children's play area, laundry facilities, community garden plots, and outdoor BBQ area and a large open play area. Children living in the units between the ages of 7-13 were able to attend a week long summer camp, thanks to ACOF and community partners.



ACOF incorporated environmentally sensitive or "green" building materials and systems, achieving a LEED Platinum rating for Osborne Place. San Fernando Valley Mental Health Centers, Inc., provides the two case managers for residents.

